REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

BASKETBALL LEGEND STEVE NASH SIGNS ON AS GM OF CANADIAN MEN'S TEAM PAGE 15

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Wednesday, May 9, 2012

News worth sharing.

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Tara McDonald, right, mother of slain Victoria (Tori) Stafford, and her mother, Linda Winters, walk into court on Tuesday for proceedings at Michael Rafferty's murder trial. The Crown is submitting closing arguments this week.
DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Together they did this to Tori': Crown

Closing arguments. Rafferty, McClintic are both responsible for Tori Stafford's killing, prosecution says

Warning: Story contains graphic details.

Michael Rafferty used his disturbed lover as a "violent pawn" to help him carry out the abduction, rape and murder of eight-year-old Victoria Stafford, court heard Tuesday.

The Crown said in its closing submissions at Rafferty's first-degree murder trial that Rafferty was the one in control of the events of April 8, 2009, from start to finish.

The assertion lies in stark contrast to the defence closing arguments, in which Rafferty's lawyer, Dirk Derstine, suggested Terri-Lynne McClintic was the engine behind Tori's killing, and Rafferty had no idea what she was up to.

But Crown attorney Kevin Gowdey told the jury Rafferty was no innocent bystander to McClintic's "deranged" plan.

"Michael Rafferty and Terri-Lynne McClintic were in this together," Gowdey said. "Together they did this to Tori Stafford. Together they are guilty.

"Terri-Lynne McClintic did not do this by herself, whatever the suggestion may be. She, in the Crown's submission, was a violent pawn that Michael Rafferty used to make this happen for himself."

McClintic, who is already serving a life sentence after pleading guilty to first-degree murder, testified that Rafferty urged her to kidnap a young girl for him, that he raped the girl and that pent-up rage from her own childhood traumas caused McClintic to snap and murder Tori.

Michael Rafferty
THE CANADIAN PRESS

That testimony marked a change from what she told police for years — that Rafferty was the one who killed Tori with a hammer.

It doesn't matter whether the jury thinks McClintic physically killed Tori or if Rafferty did it, Gowdey said. If they acted together, that is enough to convict Rafferty.

Rafferty, 31, has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

Rafferty muttered to himself, shook his head and rolled his eyes several times while listening to Gowdey's closing address, mostly when Gowdey discussed the rape allegation.

By the time Tori's body was found the decomposition was so advanced that forensic pathology cannot determine if she was sexually assaulted.

Tori's DNA profile was found in blood on the rear passenger-door frame and it was also found mixed with Rafferty's DNA profile in a tiny bloodstain on his gym bag, found in the car.

Gowdey suggested the most logical way for the blood to have been deposited there is from the alleged sexual assault McClintic said took place in that area of the car.

Gowdey said it was Rafferty who was both the literal and figurative driver that day. He drove to a rural area after spiriting the child 130 kilometres away from her school in Woodstock. The location was carefully selected for his "evil intentions," Gowdey said, "away from civilization where no one will hear her scream, where no one will happen by and interrupt, where no one will find her body."

Terri-Lynne McClintic
THE CANADIAN PRESS

After the killing, Rafferty took deliberate steps to cover his tracks and lied to police, he said.

In the defence closing submissions on Monday, Derstine acknowledged Rafferty was there when Tori died from blows to the head with a hammer. But he rejected McClintic's testimony as a fiction invented by a troubled woman who "perjured herself over and over and over again."

The Crown's closing arguments continue on Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 NEWS

On the web

Peruvian scientists puzzled over marine-life deaths

Scientists in Peru are puzzled after nearly 900 dolphins and 4,450 pelicans were found dead on beaches in the northern part of the country. Watch at metronews.ca

Mobile news

Would you stop buying soda pop if it cost more? A recent report is proposing a tax on sugary drinks and a price cut on healthier choices. Scan the code for the story.

Announcement

How will feds step up for mental-health care strategy?

Federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq is officially welcoming the country's first national mental-health strategy, although it's unclear what role Ottawa will take in its implementation.

The mere presence of Aglukkaq at the Tuesday launch of the Mental Health Commission of Canada's blueprint for overhauling mental-health care suggests the federal government will be a player of some kind.

However, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has often suggested that health- care delivery is best left to the provinces.

In her speech at the launch, Aglukkaq made no mention of the billions of federal and provincial dollars that would be required to make the strategy a reality. Rather, she invited the head of the commission to attend an international conference on mental health with her and announced plans for more research into fighting homelessness among the mentally ill.

And she suggested that the role of the federal government is to support research, provide subsidies for community involvement and finance aboriginal health — as always.

The mental-health strategy, released Monday, is the result of five years of research and consultation by the commission, paid for by the federal government.

"Today we have reached a milestone," Aglukkaq told a conference of stakeholders where the commission discussed the report.

Mental health has never had a national strategy in Canada. Instead, researchers describe an underfunded patchwork of unreliable services that does a poor job of preventing mental illness. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michael Landsberg, host of TSN's Off the Record, signs an autograph for Sondra Sequin, 17, of Belmont, Ont., during Tuesday's Breakfast of Champions at the London Convention Centre. Landsberg, who suffers from depression, spoke during the event hosted by St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation and the Canadian Mental Health Association London and Middlesex. The annual breakfast, attended by about 1,000 people, aims to showcase champions of mental health and mark Mental Health Week. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Addressing the gaps in mental-health care

New mental-health model. London-area providers are months into revising the delivery of care

As the federal government reveals the country's first mental-health strategy, London-area service providers are more than six months into creating a new model for delivering care.

Simply put: "The way mental-health services are being delivered in London is changing," said Don Seymour, executive director of WOTCH Community Mental Health Services.

"We're moving to an investment in community services and early intervention, instead of a hospital model."

Over the next three years, London will lose about 50 per cent of its inpatient beds as St. Joseph's Health Care makes changes. That decision, approved last spring, helped prompt an all-out review of transitioning patients into community programs offering care.

It also led to a report that takes a hard look at long waits for help and what's expected to be a growing demand for service in the next decade.

Commissioned by the South West Addiction and Mental Health Coalition, the report was released quietly last fall and says there are numerous service gaps in London-Middlesex. They include: Not enough housing for mental-health patients; a lacking crisis-response system that depends on emergency rooms and the criminal-justice system as "expensive defaults"; too few mental-health professionals working in community-based settings; and a lack of co-ordination between agencies offering support.

The study also points to the size of southwest Ontario's mental-health problem — an estimated 11,574 cases of serious mental illness in London-Middlesex alone. That number's expected to grow by nearly 1,000 through 2022. Reliable estimates for people living with what's called "moderate mental illness" aren't available, the study says.

At first, Seymour said he was a bit cynical about how effective the effort would be. That's changed, he said, noting the blueprint — expected to be phased in through 2014 — could turn southwest Ontario into a model. Making the system work — and forcing people to work together — is more important now than ever, Seymour said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Initiating change

- **Hope.** TSN host Michael Landsberg has turned his battle with depression into a tool for sharing hope with others.
- **Attitude shift.** Canada no doubt needs a mental-health strategy, and a big part of that needs to focus on changing attitudes toward mental illness, Landsberg told Metro while in London on Tuesday.

"The majority of Canadians believe that mental illness, and depression in particular, is a weakness, not an illness. So we need a strategy to combat that, and the more that's talked about, the better," he said.

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Voices.com. Brand built from ground up in London

David Ciccarelli ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

David Ciccarelli is quick to point out one of the keys to success for Voices.com.

The company, which he founded in 2003 with his wife, Stephanie, has grown along the lines of a supply-and-demand model.

"We didn't go out and get a venture capital," Ciccarelli, 33, said. "We didn't grow for the sake of growing.

"And here we are today," the CEO said, sitting in a 6,000-square-foot office that overlooks downtown.

The company announced its latest venture Monday, launching an iPhone app that gives clients access to its database of voiceover talent "anywhere, anytime." The app — billed as the voiceover industry's first — is aimed at meeting customer demand for convenience while beefing up the company's edge.

It's not the first time David and Stephanie Ciccarelli, 29, have paved the way in their field. From the time Voices.com started, it's been a leader in making it easy for companies to connect with people who serve as the voice for everything from commercials to public-service announcements to voice-mail attendants.

Started with a toll-free number run into the Ciccarellis' condo and a handful of people looking to lend out their voices for a fee, Voices.com moved into a 2,000-square-foot space at Western's Research Park within a year.

Growing from two to 17 employees between 2004 and last summer, the company made one of its biggest leaps in June — moving onto the eighth floor of an office tower at 150 Dufferin Ave.

The company now has 25 employees and plans to up that number to 40 by the end of the year. Its database of talent has grown to 75,000 people, plus an equal number of companies that pay to access services.

While satellite offices may be in the company's future, the Ciccarellis have no intentions of pulling up stakes and leaving the Forest City.

"We want this to be a London-based company," David said. "We've built so many relationships here, it would be pretty foolish of us to … just leave." ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Learn more

Information about the company's new app is available at voices.com/iphone.

Wage freeze. McGuinty seeks Tory support

Premier Dalton McGuinty is turning to his rivals to achieve a wage freeze for the broader public sector to slay Ontario's $15-billion deficit.

He says his minority Liberal government needs the Progressive Conservatives to back his efforts to freeze the pay of more than a million workers, including nurses and teachers.

McGuinty is reaching out to the Tories just a day after Opposition Leader Tim Hudak announced plans to introduce legislation to force a wage freeze immediately. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Want a calorie count with that?

On the menu. NDP critic wants to force Ontario chain restaurants to list calories, sodium

Knowledge is power, especially when it comes to nutrition, NDP health critic France Gelinas said Tuesday as she again introduced a bill to force chain restaurants to put calorie counts on their menus.

There's simply no easy way for people to tell which foods are loaded with calories and sodium and which are at least a little bit healthier, said Gelinas.

"If you are on a diet where you have to limit your sodium intake, there would be no way of knowing just by looking at the menus," she said.

"Did you know the bran muffin has almost double the calories of the Boston cream-filled doughnut, at 410 calories for the muffin and 250 for the doughnut?"

Gelinas wants chain restaurants to list calories beside the price of each item on their menus and use an asterisk to highlight foods with high sodium counts.

Private member's bill

France Gelinas' bill would apply to any restaurant chain with $5 million a year in revenues and at least five establishments in Ontario. Private member's bills rarely become law in Ontario, and Gelinas' last attempt at nutritional labelling died on the order paper.

"This is not a ban. All that we're giving them is information," she said.

"The menu items will still be the same, the prices will still be the same, but you will have more knowledge, and when it comes to nutrition, knowledge is power."

Restaurants have the information on calories and sodium content, but often refer people to their websites to get it, said Gelinas.

The Centre for Science in the Public Interest said studies from the United States, where providing nutritional information is the law, show it does help reduce caloric intake and give helpful advice to people at risk of heart attacks or strokes from a high-sodium diet. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sandra Stanish, 27, grabs a bite Tuesday afternoon at the McDonald's walk-up window at Richmond and Dundas streets. The NDP has again introduced a bill that would force chain restaurants to list calorie counts beside the price of each menu item. Asterisks would highlight foods with high sodium counts. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Up for debate

Let's study labelling: Health minister

Deb Matthews
HEALTH.GOV.ON.CA

Health Minister Deb Matthews said Ontario has a very serious problem with childhood obesity and she wants experts to study the idea of menu labelling to see if it will help.

"It has some appeal, I'll be honest with you, but I think it's important that we do it in the context of the research," she said. "It has some merit and I want to look at it more closely."

Premier Dalton McGuinty, trying to avoid another accusation he's running a nanny-state government, said he was looking forward to the debate on putting calorie counts on menus.

"It's about, I think, better informing families," said McGuinty.

"It's not about telling them what to do, but better informing them so they can make wiser choices when it comes to the kinds of foods that they want to purchase for the kids, for example."

Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak said a government facing a $15-billion deficit should have higher priorities than creating more bureaucracy to oversee restaurant menus.

"It should not be a priority to open up some new department to police menus in the province," said Hudak. "I think it's wrong." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tanning salons

MP wants teens banned from beds

Conservative MP James Bezan is hoping to make that pre-prom visit to the tanning salon a thing of the past for Canadian teens.

Just as the American media dissect the details of a New Jersey mother charged with bringing her five-year-old into a tanning booth, Bezan is pushing for age limits on the use of the devices.

Bezan's private member's bill would ban the use of tanning beds and booths for Canadians under the age of 18. It would also require warning signs to be posted in salons, and labels to be affixed to tanning equipment. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Speaking series

Caruk does lunch

HGTV's Jim Caruk will lead this month's Luncheon Series hosted by the Canadian Club of London. The session will take place May 15 at noon at the Hilton. Members can submit questions via facebook.com/canadiancluboflondon, or @CCOL1. **METRO**

Home invasion

OPP search for pair of suspects

Christopher Reibling

Kenneth Clark

Oxford County OPP have charged one person and are still looking for two other suspects in connection with a home invasion in Ingersoll. Justin Sharpe, 25, of Kingsville was arrested in Woodstock last week.

Christopher Reibling, 27, of London, and Kenneth Clark, 44, of London, are wanted for numerous offences. **AM980/AM980.CA**

Real estate

New home starts down in London

New home starts were lower in April, according to preliminary figures released by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Builders laid foundations for 121 single-detached homes compared to 126 last year. **METRO**

Knights keen on drawing first blood

OHL final. London wants to score first as it looks to steal another road win in Niagara on Wednesday

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

Heading into Game 4 of the Ontario Hockey League final, there are two questions surrounding the London Knights.

The first is if the top-seeded Knights can score the first goal of the game in the unfriendly and stuffy confines of the Gatorade Garden City Complex.

"The fans are pretty ruthless there," London forward Jared Knight, 20, said of the ancient rink, "so to take the crowd out of it early is big."

To date, Niagara has opened the scoring in every match of the highly contested final. And even with the league's top netminder, Michael Houser, staring down at them, Niagara's offensive talents are due for a couple of breakout performances.

"We want to get a good start; it's really important," assistant general manager and coach Misha Donskov said. "They compete hard in their own barn, and the puck bounces off the boards in odd ways."

The second question is the health of Knight. Though the Boston Bruins prospect played the entirety of Game 3, a "nagging" ankle injury made him a game-time decision.

Calling the last-second verdict "precautionary," Knight confirmed to Metro London he is "fine" and the injury is "minor."

Game time in St. Catharines is 7 p.m.

Your view

As of right now, who would you choose as the OHL post-season MVP?

- @BrianBlatnicki: "Michael Houser - Can't think of anyone who is more valuable to this team thus far in the playoffs"
- @RyanLitt07: "Maata ... He has definitely been a clutch player in these playoffs! Racking up lots of points."

Tandem touch helps green up Victoria Park

Chesley Stevens, 22, front, and Paige Onaitis, 24, both employees in the city's parks department, tackle a Victoria Park cleanup Tuesday afternoon. Crews are in the process of sprucing up city parks and soon will start planting flowers to officially welcome spring. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Youth. Advisory council gets a sneak peek at the inner workings of city government in Forest City

The city's youngest councillors got their first glimpse Tuesday at what happens in the towering offices at 300 Dufferin Ave.

For at least some of members of the London Youth Advisory Council, the experience at city hall was an eye-opener.

"There's so much happening here," Sonja Fernandes, 22, said. "(I was surprised) by all the different initiatives … all the different plans people have."

Elected in March, the council is designed to serve as the youth voice for what's happening in city government. While they won't be making any policy recommendations until their terms officially start in September, members had their first orientation with city staff Tuesday in council chambers.

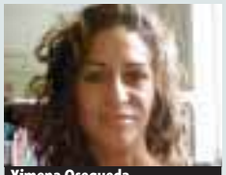
Many of the youths — ranging in age from 16 to 24 — have no experience with municipal politics or procedure, so the training sessions are a way to start the ball rolling and, hopefully, whet their appetites for what's to come.

That certainly was the case for Fernandes, 22, a Markham native who just earned a degree from Western.

"It's definitely got me thinking about things." **ANGELA MULLINS/METRO**

Mexico

Arrests made in Canadian's death



Ximena Osegueda
CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Canadian graduate student and her boyfriend who were killed late last year were innocent victims of escalating gang activity in one of Mexico's hottest tourist destinations, police in that country say.

Local media reported that two men and three women have been arrested in connection with the robbery-related deaths of Ximena Osegueda, 39, and her boyfriend Alejandro Santamaria, 38.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Victoria

Man turns online to recover ashes

It's not uncommon for people to list things under Craigslist's Victoria "lost-and-found" section, and that's where Blake Williams turned to May 3 after losing a bag containing his brother-in-law's ashes.

The green plastic mesh bag was in the trunk of Williams' car on April 28 when he made a quick gas stop before heading over to his brother-in-law Darin's funeral.

With his gas tank full, Williams told CTV News he accelerated out of the gas station. That's when he heard the sound of a crash, which was how he realized his tailgate had opened up and the bag was gone.

PHOEBE HO/METRO IN VICTORIA

Children's author Sendak dies at 83

In this Sept. 25, 1985, file photo, author Maurice Sendak poses with one of the characters from his book Where the Wild Things Are, designed for the operatic adaptation of his book in St. Paul, Minn. Sendak died Tuesday in hospital in Danbury, Conn. He was 83. For more on Sendak's impact, see Voices, page 7. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tim Hortons delivers — really

Bundle of joy.
Staff help mom give birth to daughter in doughnut-shop bathroom

They could name her "Timbit."

Staff at a Tim Hortons in Windsor, Ont., are used to serving double-doubles — but delivering a baby was an entirely different experience.

Shireen Anderson says she didn't realize she was having contractions when she needed to go to the bathroom at the coffee shop Tuesday morning.

She soon realized the baby was coming and started screaming for help.

"When I was in the bathroom, I was screaming for help and I'm like, 'Nobody can hear me, I can't do this by myself,'" said Anderson, who admits she was starting to freak out.

"I decided to go and notify somebody," she said. "I'm glad they didn't leave me to do it myself and somebody was there."

Restaurant staff began gathering towels and one of them, Judy Glenn, helped calm Anderson in the washroom while a 911 dispatcher gave instructions over the phone.

"She was calming me down and telling me everything was going to be OK," Anderson recalled.

"They were on the phone with the EMS giving them step-by-step directions. Of course I wasn't listening too much because I was in excruciating pain at the time."

Minutes later, EMS arrived to take mom and baby to hospital. The baby girl — Anderson's second child — was named Azauria.

"The lady's OK. The baby's OK," said Aaron Hayes, the restaurant manager.

"Didn't have time to wait for EMS. We decided to take care of the situation right away."

Hayes, a father himself, said Glenn also has children of her own so she had some idea of what to expect. Still, he gave her the rest of the day off. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Airports. No immediate security changes over foiled bomb plot: Officials

Airport security procedures, with their intrusive pat downs and body scans, do not need to be toughened despite the discovery of a new al-Qaida airline bomb plot using more sophisticated technology than an earlier attempt, U.S. congressional and security officials said Tuesday.

Current U.S. detection methods would likely have spotted the shape of the explosive in the upgraded underwear bomb intercepted by the CIA, said a U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss security precautions. No new security measures are being put in place, the official said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Internet users poised for better access

Online. Rogers survey shows smartphone users value instant information at their fingertips

The waiting is just about over — the Internet will soon provide instant access to just about everything you want.

Sixty-nine per cent of 2012 Rogers Innovation Report survey respondents said that having faster, better access to information and knowledge online that will "make me and my life better" was what they wanted the Internet to provide.

Survey results were released Wednesday.

"And what people are valuing most is real-time information" said Rob Switzman, senior director of emerging business at Rogers Communications.

The online survey polled just over 1,000 adult Canadians who use a smartphone and are connected to the Internet.

"The Internet is no longer just a place to go ... it's creating new experiences and transforming the way people live.

"From apps that monitor cholesterol to fridges that automatically order groceries, the Internet is becoming the backbone of all connections in the world around us, and will continue to evolve how we go about our daily lives," said Switzman.

Seventy-two per cent expect the Internet to play an increasingly important role in the next five years, said Switzman.

He points out one future development that Rogers is excited about: "We will not carry a wallet or keys.... Everything will be in your smartphone."

YLVA VAN BUUREN/FOR METRO

Plugged in

Canadians love being connected so much that 34 per cent of those surveyed said they'd give up liquor and beer before their Internet connection.

- **98 per cent.** Most surveyed use the Internet to connect with family and friends.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.17¢ (-0.53¢)

Natural gas: $2.393 (-5.7¢)
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MAY THE WILD THINGS KEEP ROARING

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

Yesterday, the Wild Things ceased roaring their terrible roar for one minute of silence to mourn the passing of their creator.

Maurice Sendak, author of an entire generation of kids named Max, died at 83.

You may not immediately recognize the name, but if you were ever a kid, you'll remember his book.

Where the Wild Things Are is the story about the kid who was busted for "making mischief" in his wolf costume and sent to bed without his supper. Confined to quarters, his imagination set sail and encountered the Wild Things. They were very scary but he conquered them by staring into their yellow eyes, "not blinking once." The creatures made Max their king and then let the wild rumpus begin.

Leaving a legacy

"Sendak did not care what the officials and the librarians thought. He only cared what the kids thought."

They roared their terrible roars, and gnashed their terrible teeth. Everybody had a great, totally awesome time, but Max got homesick and so he said goodbye to the Wild Things and went home, where his mom was waiting and his supper was still hot.

Oh, that Maurice Sendak.

It's hard to believe, but Where the Wild Things Are is one of the most banned books in America (land of free speech) because back in 1963 when it was published, little kids did not get to be angry and roar their terrible roars, especially at their parents.

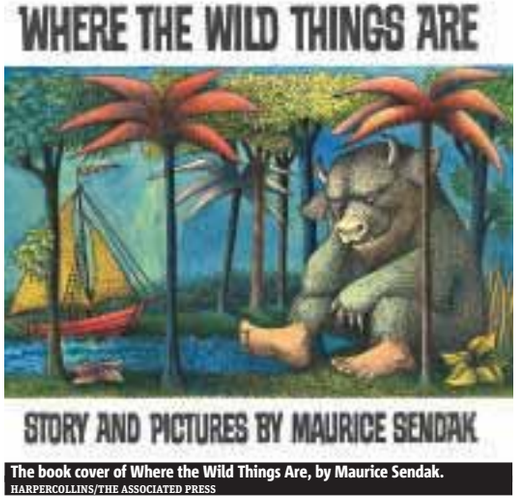
Sendak is responsible for another one of the most banned children's books in America, In the Night Kitchen, in which Mickey floats up from his bed, loses his PJs, ends up in the Night Kitchen and is nearly baked naked into the Morning Bread by three chefs who look like a cross between Oliver Hardy and Hitler.

Whatever. Sendak did not care what the officials and the librarians thought. He only cared what the kids thought: "Kids go for what they enjoy," he said. "They aren't star-chasers and they don't suck up. It's why I like them."

As much as he professed to dislike grown-ups, I think Sendak liked the little kid who lurks within. He brought all us kids — big, little, inner and outer — together at bedtime so we could have one last wild rumpus before the lights went out on another day.

And now the light has gone out forever on Sendak. With him went another piece of a rapidly vanishing spirit — the open-minded, progressive creativity that somehow kindled in the second half of the 20th century, despite (or perhaps in defiance of) two world wars.

Fortunately, the creatures of his imagination, the Wild Things, will live on — in our hearts, in our minds and in our terrible roars.



The book cover of Where the Wild Things Are, by Maurice Sendak.
HARPERCOLLINS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going to California

TIMOTHY HIATT/GETTY IMAGES

Iconic figure

Marilyn not in Chicago Forever

The sculpture Forever Marilyn, by Seward Johnson, is dismantled in Pioneer Court as it is prepared for removal Tuesday in Chicago.

The stainless steel and aluminum sculpture, which stands 26 feet tall and weighs 34,000 pounds, was inspired by Marilyn Monroe's iconic scene in the 1955 movie The Seven Year Itch when she holds her dress down as a gust of wind billows the skirt.

The sculpture, which has been on display in the Windy City since last July, will next be displayed in Palm Springs, Calif.

Dismantling the sculpture turned out to be an event, with about 100 onlookers gathering around to watch.

GETTY

Controversial creation

The statue has also been described as one of the worst public eyesores.

- There was also much controversy among critics because of the siren's exposed legs.
- It was ranked No. 1 on the Virtual Tourist website's top-10 list of worst public art.

Something to talk about

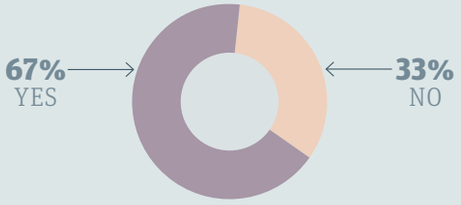
"It is a conversation-starter.... Part of the reason why the artist creates work is for people to think about what they are seeing and what it means to them."

Jenee Castellanos, associate curator of the Sculpture Foundation, which owns Forever Marilyn, to UPI.com

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should formerly jailed media baron Conrad Black have been allowed to return to Canada?



Twitter

@Traceynola:
I miss my tongue piercing. Contemplating on getting it re-done. Where would you go that you trust? #LdnOnt #piercing.

@janetfrood:
Kudos to St. Joe's Fdn & CMHA for their collaboration on #breakfastofchampion. They brought the issue of mental health to 1000 in #ldnont

@beichengao:
Learning about Environmental Services in #LDNOnt at #LYAC training. Now I feel bad for driving here this morning. #ashamedpanda

@jennahepburn:
@Downtown_London you are beautiful this morning! #happytuesday #ldnont

@CodyMclean:
How come you only run into people you don't like on the bus? #ltc #ldnont

metro

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2

SCENE

Celebrity saviour

Hoffman helps cardiac arrest victim

A man who had a cardiac arrest while jogging in London's Hyde Park says his life was saved with help from a famous passerby – actor Dustin Hoffman. Sam Dempster said Tuesday that Hoffman waited with him after he collapsed on April 27 until paramedics arrived. On his recovery blog, 27-year-old Dempster thanked medical staff and "my newfound favourite celebrity Dustin Hoffman." Dempster initially credited Hoffman with having summoned an ambulance, but the London Ambulance Service said someone else had made the emergency call. Martin Macarthur, one of the paramedics on the scene, said Hoffman described seeing Dempster collapse and froth at the mouth. "It is essential to get a history of what has happened — he was the main witness and saw him stagger and go down," Macarthur said. "He stayed on the scene for the whole duration of the resuscitation, which was about 15 minutes. He was very concerned." Macarthur said the 74-year-old actor told medics, "Great job, guys," after they resuscitated Dempster with a defibrillator.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Sarah Jessica Parker, Sofia Vergara take Met Gala red-carpet role seriously

Baron Cohen's typical antics dictate proceedings

The Dictator. Latest alter-ego is most shocking one yet as British star appals and amuses journalists at film's official press conference in New York

HEIDI PATALANO
Metro World News

Sacha Baron Cohen, dressed as his latest alter-ego Admiral General Aladeen, from his upcoming film The Dictator. DAVE ALLOCCA, STARPIX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The mastermind behind controversial characters Ali G, Borat and Bruno knows how to get the most bang for his buck when it comes to a public appearance.

To promote his upcoming film, The Dictator, (opening May 16) Sacha Baron Cohen arrived at New York's Waldorf Astoria flanked by four short-skirted "guards" to give a press conference to hundreds of journalists from all over the world.

Questions for the conference were pre-approved, but given the clever answers Baron Cohen concocted for them ahead of time, the lack of spontaneity might have been worth it.

Since in the film Baron Cohen plays Admiral General Aladeen — a misogynistic, racist, anti-Semitic ruler of the impoverished African nation of Wadiya — his in-character answers drew gasps, groans and laughs. Here are a few of his best zingers:

"We dictators aren't all bad. While Western countries continue to ravage our planet's resources, we preserve our land and conserve it by burying thousands of bones in single mass eco-graves."

"On behalf of my dear friend and doubles tennis partner President Assad of Syria, I want to thank the United Nations for their brave inaction over Syria. Thirteen months and still no security council resolution. You guys are amazing. You have done next to nothing for the Syrian people — but remember, you can always do less."

"It has been a tough year. We have lost a lot of good people and I have lost a lot of good friends — Gaddafi, I miss you [looks in the air]. Sorry, Gaddafi, I miss you [looks at the ground]. Also, KJ, Kimmy G, K-Jo, K-Man — you know, Kim Jong. And of course you know Chavez died last month... Oh, oops — you did not hear that from me."

Even Beatles are crazy for Mad Men

Tomorrow Never Knows. Acclaimed show given rare privilege of using Revolver song in latest episode

It turns out even the Beatles are Mad Men devotees.

Sunday's episode of the acclaimed drama ended with brooding ad man Don Draper alone in his New York apartment listening to Tomorrow Never Knows from the Fab Four's 1966 album Revolver.

Mad Men husband-and-wife writing-producing duo Andre and Maria Jacquemetton say the show's creative team desperately wanted that particular song. "In the case of the Beatles, they're not known for opening up their song catalogue to everyone," Andre Jacquemetton said Monday.

"It just turns out actually that they're huge fans of the show. So in a way, it's 'Who do you get to talk to?'"

Added Maria Jacquemetton: "It was really (Mad Men creator) Matt Weiner making a personal appeal, he really worked very hard to get that particular song in the episode."

In the instalment, entitled Lady Lazarus, Draper's wife Megan (Jessica Pare) announces plans to quit the advertising business to resume pursuit of an acting career.

Quoted

"It just turns out actually that they are huge fans of the show."

Maria Jacquemetton
Mad Men co-writer/producer

She gives her husband the album after it's revealed he knows woefully little about popular music.

"The episode is so much about Don's disappointment over the woman that he loves not wanting to be at his side ...and him sort of feeling out of touch with everything that's going on around him."

Jon Hamm plays straitlaced ad man Don Draper on the hit series Mad Men. RON JAFFE. AMC/THE CANADIAN PRESS

That has been a recurring theme this season as the straitlaced Draper deals with the advent of the psychedelic 1960s. It was a cultural shift touched on in an episode a couple of weeks ago when Draper's colleague, Roger Sterling, went on an acid trip.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

What's Next? We Have It Here.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

John Travolta ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Masseuse sues John Travolta for sexual advances

An unnamed man is suing John Travolta for sexual battery and assault, claiming the famous actor tried to have sex with him after hiring him for a massage, according to E! News.

The suit claims Travolta stripped naked, fondled himself and made several sexual advances at the man. It also states Travolta bragged to the plaintiff that he "got where he is now due to sexual favours he had performed when he was in his Welcome Back, Kotter days." According to the suit, Travolta apologized for his advances at the man and paid the plaintiff double his $400 masseur fee, but apparently that wasn't enough, as he is seeking $2 million in general damages and court costs.

Prince Harry

Love is still in the air for Prince Harry and former flame Chelsea

Prince Harry can't seem to keep ex-girlfriend Chelsea Davy out of his life, as the two — who split up officially in 2009 — are reportedly seeing each other, according to Us Weekly.

"They're not dating again, but they are seeing each other," a source says. "There's definitely a romantic connection still. They will never be 'just friends' — both of them admit that's impossible."

Lindsay Lohan

Lindsay Lohan dines with Woody Allen in New York

Lindsay Lohan looks to be taking a serious crack at her comeback after being spotted dining with Woody Allen and his wife in New York over the weekend, according to People magazine. The trio enjoyed a meal at Philippe, though it's unclear if the meeting was for business or pleasure. Certainly Lohan would be thrilled to work with Allen on an upcoming project. Lohan's rep would only confirm the meeting took place, saying, "They had dinner together in New York. Lindsay very much admires Mr. Allen."

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3 LIFE

Travel in brief

Starwood sets sights on the East

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide plans to open 40 new hotels in the Middle East and North Africa over the next five years, the hotel operator said Monday. The company currently has nearly 70 high-end hotels in the region, including a recently opened Westin in Abu Dhabi and St. Regis in Qatar. It has a long history in the area, beginning with its opening of a Sheraton in 1966 in Kuwait. "Despite economic and political uncertainty in parts of the region, Starwood continues to see demand for growth of all of our brands across the Middle East and North Africa," Frits van Paasschen, President and CEO of Starwood Hotels & Resorts, said in a statement. Starwood said the region is its second-largest growth market after China. The company feels development there is key to its global growth strategy. It expects the number of tourists travelling to the region will double from nearly 80 million last year to 195 million by 2030.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Old Montana prison offers a chilling glimpse of the past

A walk across the Brooklyn Bridge is one of the best free activities for visitors. MARY ALTAFFER, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 Freebies in New York

It's ironic in a city with some of the most expensive hotels and restaurants in the world, many of New York's best attractions are free.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Times Square

A vibrant public space like no other, even better in person than it looks on TV. Plenty of things here to buy, of course, but the lights, sights and people-watching are free, 24 hours a day.

2 High Line

One of the city's newest attractions, the High Line has quickly become a favourite with out-of-towners and locals alike. It's a narrow park built on an old elevated freight railway along 10th Avenue on Manhattan's West Side, from Gansevoort Street, just below 14th Street, to 31st Street. It offers a unique look at the urban landscape from 30 feet above ground, with a peek at adjacent apartments, Hudson River views, vestiges of the neighbourhood's industrial past — meatpacking plants, auto shops - as well as signs of a trendy rebirth: postmodern architecture, art installations and Diane von Furstenburg's DVF building. The northern half is more park-like with plantings, benches and birds.

3 Staten Island Ferry

This humble, utilitarian boat takes commuters between Manhattan and Staten Island 24 hours a day, and it's free. It also offers classic views of the Statue of Liberty, harbour, and skyscraper canyons. Take the No. 1 subway to South Ferry or No. 4 or 5 to Bowling Green to board the boat on the Manhattan side. Be ready for crowds at rush hour and longer waits off-peak.

4 Brooklyn Bridge

When it opened in 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge was an engineering wonder; the longest suspension bridge in the world. It remains a beloved symbol of New York and an aesthetic triumph, with Gothic arches worthy of a cathedral and a delicate filigree of cables whose patterns change with every step along the mile-long walkway. Take the A or C train to High Street, Brooklyn, and walk back to Manhattan for the best skyline views.

5 Central Park

Central Park is the city's communal backyard, a green space where New Yorkers can escape their small apartments to skate, bike, jog, picnic, push a stroller, walk a dog or climb a rock. Stroll the serpentine paths as dappled sunshine filters through the trees, and consider how well the park fulfills the goal of its 19th century designers, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, who sought to create the illusion of nature in an urban environment.

Shine the spotlight on rice by making it the star of a hearty dish

This delicate and delicious Salmon and Rice Chowder is elegant enough to serve at an afternoon lunch but also easy enough to whip together for a quick weeknight meal.

Salmon may be substituted for any firm white fish or shrimp to suit different tastes.

1. In large saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat; cook the onion and celery, stirring occasionally, until they are softened, about 5 minutes.

2. Stir in flour; cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Stir in clam juice, water, salt, paprika and pepper; bring to boil over high heat, stirring often.

3. Add salmon, rice and corn and cream; cover and simmer until heated through and fish flakes easily when tested, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir in bit more cream and dill; heat through.

USA RICE FEDERATION, RICEINFO.COM

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (25 mL) butter
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 stalks of celery, diced
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) all-purpose flour
- 2 bottles (each 236 mL) clam juice
- 3 cups (750 mL) water
- 3/4 tsp (4 mL) salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) sweet paprika
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) pepper
- 1 lb (500 g) boneless skinless salmon fillets, cut into bite-size chunks
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) cooked medium- or long-grain brown rice
- 1 cup (250 mL) frozen corn kernels
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) whipping cream
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) chopped fresh dill, parsley, chives or green onions

Salmon and Rice Chowder

This recipe serves six people. RICEINFO.COM

Drink of the Week

Super Citrus 'Rita

1. Salt the rim of a cocktail glass and fill with ice.

2. In a cocktail shaker filled with ice, combine the grapefruit juice, orange juice, lemon juice, lime juice and tequila. Shake vigorously, then strain into the glass.

3. Garnish with a lemon twist.

- Kosher salt
- Juice of 1/2 ruby red grapefruit
- Juice of 1/2 orange
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- Juice of 1/2 lime
- 1 ounce reposado tequila

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As to Disney properties/artwork: ©Disney. As to Disney/Pixar properties/artwork: ©Disney/Pixar.

When your work friend becomes your boss

Feeling jealous of your friend's success? Why not learn from them? ISTOCK

New power dynamic. One minute you're having coffee breaks together, the next minute they're asking you for that report

KAVI GUPPTA
TalentEgg.ca

When I first started dipping my toes into the advertising world, I worked for a really small start-up that had a staff of about 15 people.

The small size of the company meant that we would spend all of our time together and we naturally became a close-knit group of friends.

During my tenure at this firm, a number of friends and co-workers were promoted to positions that involved me working under them. I was also put in a position that gave me authority over some of my closest friends and colleagues. For a while, we struggled to find the appropriate balance as co-workers, friends and "underlings."

Co-worker relationships are interesting. These are people you probably spend 90 per cent of your week with and they're relationships that can be lasting and influential to your career. But what happens when your co-worker, and friend, gets promoted to a position as your superior? Does the relationship stay the same?

How do you deal with the fact that your closest confidante is now your boss?

Respect the space

This person is obviously someone you may be reporting to on a regular basis. Remember that even though you're friends, you have to respect the position he or she has been given, and act accordingly. Never think that deadlines and expectations are lowered because your best friend is the boss.

Talk about it

Express your thoughts and develop a strategy for how this new work relationship will function. Set out guidelines that respect both you and your co-worker's positions, but be flexible in a manner that allows you to still socialize with them.

This is a good way to gauge how you and your friend can interact with each other, especially if hanging out at the local pub and gabbing is common after work.

You may even feel an inkling of jealousy, and that's understandable. But bottling it all up and acting like a jerk to someone who considers you a friend isn't right. The same thing applies if your friend is being cocky or running on a power trip. Lay it all out on the table, express how you feel, but be professional. You are still co-workers.

Learn from them

Your colleague has clearly demonstrated that he or she is capable of moving into a more senior position. Learn from that. Shadow them and observe how they work and if possible, use them as a mentor to help you advance in your own career. This is someone who knows you well and can provide you with a wealth of great knowledge and ideas on improving your own work process.

What happens if I get promoted and become a superior to my friends?

Well, first of all, scroll back up and read the first two pointers, and replace your colleague with yourself.

But what about number three? How would that work?

Become the mentor! Reverse the role and guide your friends to do better at work. Teach them what you know and what you did to get to where you are. Friends help each other out, right?

Have you experienced this scenario in your career? Share your thoughts and what you did to make the best of this situation. **KAVI GUPPTA (@KAVIGUPPTA) IS A DIGITAL STRATEGIST WITH MORE THAN FIVE YEARS OF DIGITAL MARKETING AND ADVERTISING EXPERIENCE.**

Be an entry-level star

Starting from the bottom. How absorbing and embracing adversity can help your career

GREGORY MURRAY
TalentEgg.ca

After a year of working at a comfortable management desk job right out of business school, I was pulled into my boss's office and was told it was time for a "critical experience."

As my boss was speaking, all I remember hearing were the words "working off-shift" and I knew that I was headed to manage the night shift. Ego-deflating critical experiences might involve relocating to a field office in the middle of nowhere, working on the smallest and most un-sexy brand (like my male friend working on a feminine-hygiene brand), or completing mundane data entry that even a monkey could perform. These entry-level critical experiences are never the jobs you hear about at university — however, their intention is simple and important: to test your devotion to the company and accelerate your understanding of the business from cocky new grad to competent leader.

While they're not fun, these experiences are highly beneficial and if you want to move up to the executive levels — or at least beyond the entry level — you must embrace and succeed at these critical experiences.

It's often said that those who reach the stratospherically successful plateaus in life and career are those who can handle the quickest pace of change. I would go a step further and say that they are also the ones who seek out and learn from the most adverse scenarios. It sounds counter-intuitive, but these adversity-craving people realize that adversity is where the growth is and don't shy away from it.

Working the night shift meant changing one of the most fundamental and steadfast structures in my life: my routine. While challenging, it was one of the best things for me. Not only was I making executive calls affecting a large team of employees and having a big impact on costs and budget, but I learned to be adaptable in life.

Adversity is logarithmic. Now is your time to eat it up to raise your baseline tolerance of it for the even larger critical experiences coming down the pipe. There is always a light at the end of the tunnel — and a promotion not so far away.

Nash takes on Canada GM job

Basketball. Two-time NBA MVP handed reins to Canadian men's national program

Steve Nash has dreamed of managing the Canadian men's basketball team since he was a young point guard running its offence.

He didn't envision that day would come so soon.

Canada's biggest basketball star was named general manager of the Canadian men's senior team Tuesday.

Nash, who will be a highly coveted free agent this NBA off-season, said the opportunity to help what might be the most talented group of young players the country has ever produced was one he couldn't pass up.

"It really is a beautiful thing to see our kids and the game grow and the talent continue to reach new heights," Nash said Tuesday in Toronto. "I have a lot of excitement generated for the young kids in this country, many of which are making a name for themselves already, and many of which are coming up behind them."

Nash's former Canadian teammate Rowan Barrett was named assistant GM.

The sport's national governing body has had the two-time NBA MVP from Victoria in its sights for some time to lead a program that hasn't made an Olympic appearance since the 2000 Games in Sydney.

"Steve's basketball IQ and background are unparalleled in the sport, and we are tremendously fortunate to have him," said Wayne Parrish, Canada Basketball's president and CEO.

Nash, a 15-year NBA veteran, helped Canada to a seventh-place finish at the Sydney Olympics, with Jay Triano as coach.

"This program has meant so much to me," Nash said. "I owe a lot of my development to the program and feel that the success I've had in my career is in large part due to my time with the national team."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

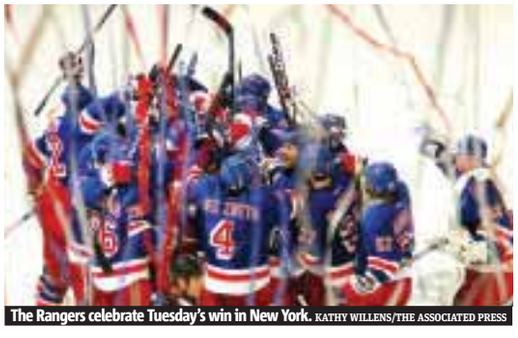
Quoted

"Obviously I love Jay and if he's interested, he'll be an important candidate."

Steve Nash on Jay Triano, who coached Canada to a seventh-place finish at the 2000 Summer Olympics. The national team is currently without a head coach.

Steve Nash speaks in Toronto on Tuesday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caps 'moving forward' after heartbreaker



The Rangers celebrate Tuesday's win in New York. KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Perhaps Washington Capitals forward Brooks Laich thinks that saying something makes it so. Or maybe he's a believer in the power of positive thinking.

Laich used the phrase "keep moving forward" over and over on Tuesday while discussing how he and his teammates need to recover from a devastating loss to the New York Rangers if the Capitals are going to avoid elimination on Wednesday night.

The top-seeded Rangers lead the series 3-2, one victory from reaching the conference finals for the first time since 1997, when Wayne Gretzky was on the team.

"We want to close it out and get this over with. It's a lot easier said than done," Rangers forward Brad Richards said. "We want to be as desperate as they are."

With Washington on the verge of taking control of the series Monday night, Richards tied Game 5 with less than 10 seconds left, and Marc Staal won it about 1 1/2 minutes into overtime.

"You can't really write that; that's something you can't script. You keep moving forward," Laich said. "Good breaks, bad breaks. We just keep moving forward."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

3-0

The Capitals are 3-0 in games following OT losses this post-season.

Tennis

Raonic cruises to Round 2 in Madrid

Canada's Milos Raonic dominated David Nalbandian 6-4, 6-4 on Tuesday in the first round of the Madrid Open. The 21-year-old from Thornhill, Ont., will face Roger Federer on Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Milos Raonic THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

NHL playoffs

"I think the best part is so many people told you this could never happen. It feels really nice to be living this right now."

Coyotes captain Shane Doan, after a 2-1 win on Tuesday night that eliminated the Nashville Predators in Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinals. After moving from Winnipeg to the Valley of the Sun before the 1996-97 season, the Coyotes failed to win a playoff series in seven tries and didn't get into the post-season seven other times.

On the web

Flyers try to stay alive vs. Devils

The Philadelphia Flyers entered Game 6 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series against the New Jersey Devils minus suspended star centre Claude Giroux. For results of Tuesday night's game in Philadelphia, go to metronews.ca/sports.

On the web

Prosecutors in the Roger Clemens perjury trial introduced convicted drug dealer and former New York Mets batboy Kirk Radomski on Tuesday, who said he made a shipment for two kits of human growth hormone and "about 50 to 100 needles" to Clemens' home address in 2002. Scan the code for the story.

5 DRIVE

Top Gear

Give thieves the boot

The Club is the steering-wheel-locking device that helps prevent vehicle theft, but the company also offers the Tire Claw XL that deters thieves from grabbing your trailer, all-terrain vehicle, or even your daily drive. The Tire Claw XL uses the same principle as those larger "boots" that many city enforcement agencies use to immobilize vehicles, only on a much smaller scale. The manufacturer claims the device is easy to use and will fit just about any wheel width up to 12 inches. Tire Claw XL weighs just eight pounds, has a cove for the lock and comes with three laser-encrypted keys that cannot be copied. It retails for $100 US and can be purchased through many automotive retail and web stores, as well as from the manufacturer at theclub.com. WHEELBASE

On the Web

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The new coupe on the block

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Sharp looks

In the flesh the BRZ looks flat-out terrific with its properly planted stance, prominently bulging fenders and generously sized windshield. In back, the twin exhaust pipes encased in a blacked-out diffuser are a neat touch.

2013 Subaru BRZ

- **Type.** Two-door, rear-wheel-drive sport coupe.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.0-litre DOHC horizontally opposed four-cylinder (200).
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 8.3/5.9 (AT).
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $30,000 (est.).

Lightweight

In this class, one of the BRZ's primary advantages is weight, or rather a lack of it.

At just 1,255 kilograms, the Subaru weighs about 230 kilograms less than the Genesis and anywhere from 300-450 kilograms less than any V6-equipped North American example.

The engine produces 200 horsepower.

Engine

The car's Subaru-based 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine sits lower to the ground than similar powerplants due to its horizontally opposed design (two cylinders fire at a 180-degree angle to the other two). Creating optimal front: rear balance also involved relocating the battery to the back of the engine compartment.

Review. Subaru teams up with Toyota to create the very sporty BRZ and its twin, the FR-S

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

A rear-wheel-drive Subaru? Surely it must be a misprint.

But, no, loyal Subie shoppers are in for a shock when they discover that the new BRZ doesn't drive all four wheels.

And that's not all, folks. Subaru has teamed up with Toyota, which owns a small stake in the company, to create the BRZ and its doppelganger that will be marketed on these shores as the Scion FR-S.

Wow, two separate manufacturers introducing nearly identical models at almost the same time. Who would have believed it possible — and more to the point, why is it happening?

Of course, because it makes sound economic sense. It costs big bucks to bring any brand-new model to market, but it's hard to justify the development costs when that model is a low-volume sports car. Spreading the tooling expenses between two manufacturers allows both to more affordably market a vehicle that creates some enthusiast buzz while also building sales for more mainstream metal.

Toyota is an old hand at making sporty coupes (the Celica, Supra and MR2 are examples) but hasn't headed down that road for years. As for Subaru, its last two-door effort was the 1990s-era SVX, a mildly quirky all-wheel-driver that was priced at the premium end of the scale. This time around, the BRZ faces formidable competition other than from the Scion FR-S. Hyundai's Genesis coupe is a leading contender, but the pricier Nissan 370Z is in the hunt as well.

Overall, the BRZ, which arrives this spring, promises to shake up the sport-coupe world with a balanced and lightweight package that really is as sporty as it looks.

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Kid-friendly RX-8 offered looks, performance

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PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

For sports car enthusiasts with kids, the Mazda RX-8 made plenty of sense, given its rare 'suicide' doors, striking looks and track-ready performance. Sharp-as-a-tack handling, instant precise steering and killer looks were all part of the package, which included a usable and accessible backseat.

Features included Bose audio, heated leather seating, navigation, automatic climate control, an intelligent key system and plenty more.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO

Common Issues

Check the level and condition of the RX-8's engine oil before your test drive. Be sure the seller was fond of frequent, high-quality oil changes.

A lumpy idle or 'misfire' may be the result of an overheating issue related to the ignition coils. If you experience this issue on a test drive, be sure to have the vehicle inspected to confirm.

Given the RX-8's unique engine, only a rotary-trained Mazda mechanic should inspect the vehicle ahead of your purchase.

While the car is in the air, the mechanic can also check for fluid leaks, excessive rust, and the condition of the tires and brakes.

Engine

Horsepower from the 1.3-litre 'RENESIS' rotary engine was rated at 238 with the six-speed manual, and between 200 and 212 with the four-speed automatic. This was replaced with a six-speed automatic later in the RX-8's life.

What Owners Like

Performance, looks, a screaming engine note, manual shifter quality and overall responsiveness are perhaps the most highly-rated aspects reported by RX-8 owners. Many appreciate the rear doors and relatively easy rear-seat access.

What Owners Dislike

Limited headroom, visibility and fuel consumption are among the RX-8's most common complaints.

Verdict

With a clean bill of health from your Mazda mechanic, a well-maintained RX-8 should provide relatively trouble-free access to a unique and sporty driving experience.

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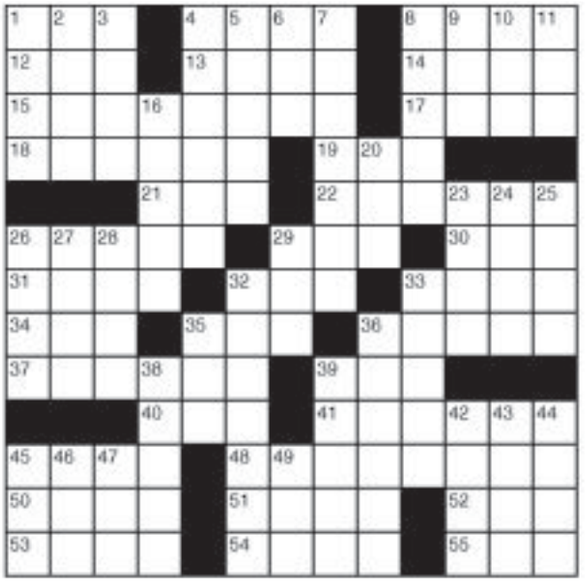
Crossword

Across

1 Track circuit
4 Schleps
8 Weak, as an excuse
12 Noshed
13 Freshly
14 "American —"
15 Estival pest
17 Meat —
18 Quantity
19 Actress Thompson
21 Lemieux milieu
22 Grasshopper's cousin
26 Stock
29 Stiller or Stein
30 — generis
31 Theater box
32 Oppositionist
33 Requirement
34 The whole enchilada
35 Dance syllable
36 Not wan
37 Scarab, for one
39 Allow
40 Black-and-white diver
41 Be there
45 Philadelphia attraction
48 Hive dweller
50 Bread spread
51 Exam format
52 Scepter topper
53 Portent
54 Wedding-dress accessory
55 Whether or —

Down

1 Tibetan monk
2 Minuscule bit
3 Mexican money
4 Set off
5 Become one
6 Comprehend
7 Distended
8 Purple shade
9 Commotion
10 Extinct bird of New Zealand
11 Ernie of Keebler ads
16 Rather
20 A long time
23 Secondhand
24 Sought restitution
25 Spruced up
26 Spill the beans
27 Characterization
28 Lecherous look
29 Feathery neckwear
32 "The Cherry Orchard" writer
33 Eccentric
35 Actor Gulager
36 Narrate again
38 Claw
39 Veranda
42 Black, in poetry
43 Pianist Peter
44 Creditor's concern
45 Greet the villain
46 Freddy's street
47 Appomattox VIP
49 Raw rock



Sudoku

8		6			7		2	
				6	5			1
7				2		3		
		5					1	
		1	4		6	9		
	6					2		
		4		3				2
5			2	7				
	9		8			1		7

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	4	1	3	7	2	5	9	6
9	7	3	6	5	8	2	4	1
6	5	2	1	9	4	7	3	8
1	9	5	6	4	8	3	2	7
7	8	6	5	2	3	4	1	9
2	3	4	9	1	7	8	6	5
3	1	7	4	6	5	9	8	2
5	6	8	2	3	9	1	7	4
4	2	9	7	8	1	6	5	3

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

O X V Y B R P T ' U O B K J E Y R

A B Y V E U D Z Z U F B K K C Z W

X E F D Z P U V H W Z H V W K T . E

W V A J Z Y X V ' U P Y L V W U D B C C V L .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE REPLACED MR. GEHRIG ON THE DIAMOND, YOU COULD SAY THAT HE PLAYED IN LIEU OF LOU.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals O

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. A money problem will disappear as if by magic. Most likely it was never a real problem in the first place.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. It's good to let friends know what it is you want out of life. If there is anything they can do to make it happen, they won't hesitate to offer.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Something you once feared so much no longer seems to worry you and that's marvelous news.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. You may have found it difficult recently to defend your beliefs but Mercury's change of signs today will help you to express yourself.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Do you have what it takes to compete at the highest level? Of course you do and the current cosmic set-up will smooth your path to success.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. For the past few weeks you have been trying hard, without success, to live up to other people's expectations. Time to be yourself again.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You will learn something to your advantage, something hugely interesting. Don't let everyone in on the news.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You'll find it easier today to put your thoughts into words. It'll have a positive effect on all your relationships.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. It will occur to you today that there are easier ways to deal with your workload. Use those ideas.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You've been working hard. Forget about work for a while. Focus on the lighter side of life – and on romance.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. You will be in a relaxed mood today, especially in the domestic sphere where you cannot be bothered to argue with loved ones.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Starting today, you will start to think clearly again and your mind will overflow with good ideas.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"What do you mean you couldn't find any good pics for the blue screen? This pose is epic!"
Colleen

WILFREDO LEE·BAL/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

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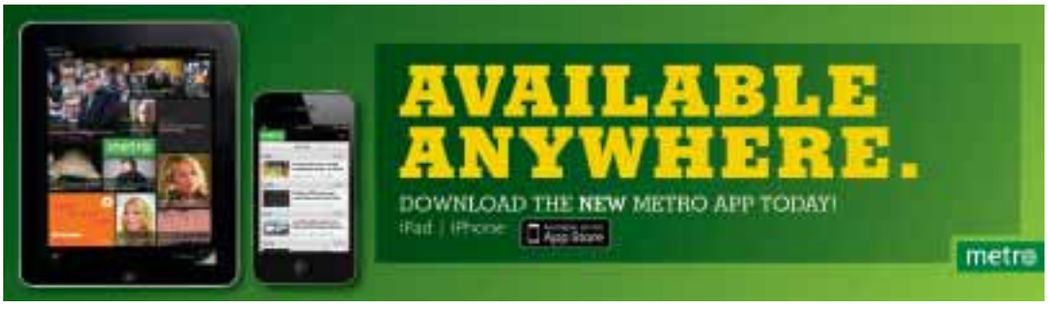
Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.



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